

Dr. Burgess Weekly Video Address June 23, 2017

Audit the Pentagon

Hello, this is your Congressman Michael Burgess.

Former Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Michael Mullen once said, “The most significant threat to our national security is our debt.”

Years of spending have wreaked havoc on our fiscal health and the federal budget. Now, the first step to getting waste under control is a full audit of the federal government.

In 1990, Congress passed the Chief Financial Officers Act requiring every Department and Agency in the Federal government to produce verifiable financial statements that can be fully audited. To date, each major agency has been able to complete this task except one – the Department of Defense (DOD).

Congress has allowed the Department of Defense to get away with 26 years of noncompliance with the law. It is time for that to end.

Along with Congresswoman Lee of California, I will be introducing a bill that will require the Department of Defense to complete an audit and comply with the Chief Financial Officers Act. This is a bipartisan effort to hold the Pentagon accountable to the same standards to which we hold every other federal department.

Our nation is facing a real crisis. The U.S. debt is teetering on the edge of \$20 trillion and our servicemen and women are finding themselves without all the resources required to fulfill their missions and defend our country.

The Pentagon must conform to the same level of accountability to which other public sector agencies are held when it comes to spending taxpayer dollars.

Let me be clear: this effort is not an attempt to take money away from our Armed Forces. Rather, this audit will ensure that taxpayer resources are being used responsibly. Plus, an audit of the Pentagon will bolster national security and the defense of our nation.

Quite simply, we want to know what we've already bought.

We must ensure that our resources are being used in the best possible way. Fiscal discipline is the hallmark of a free society. And, holding the Pentagon accountable to fiscal responsibility will improve our national security and reinforce our care for the American men and women in uniform.

As always, I appreciate your comments and your questions on this issue or any other issue. May God bless you and your family and as the song says, God bless you Texas.